City of Houston
Bicycle Advisory Committee
Infrastructure Subcommittee

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

HOUSTON BIKEPLAN

John B Raia Conference Room
611 Walker 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002

May 31, 2018
2:30-4:30pm

Agenda

1. Director's Report
2. Chair's Report
3. Discussion and action regarding Subcommittee scope and expectations
4. Discussion and possible recommendations to Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding top 10 most dangerous intersections
5. Update and possible recommendations to Bicycle Advisory Committee on bike facility implementation
6. Discussion of Houston Bike Share Request for Information Expectations
7. Announcements
8. Public Comment

The public is invited to speak for up to two (2) minutes each. The public is also encouraged to submit written comments to bac@houstontx.gov. Updates and committee notes will be available

Draft Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee Infrastructure Subcommittee

Meeting Held on
Thursday, May 31, 2018 in
John B Raia Conference Room
2:30 pm

Call to Order
Chair Maya Ford called meeting to order at 2:46pm.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Maya Ford, Chair
Clark Martinson, Vice Chair
Ana Ramirez Huerta
Yuhayna McCoy
Alejandro Perez
Amar Mohite
Robin Holzer
Diane Dohm
Katrina Bayer
Oni Blair
Mike VanDusen
Beth Martin

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Ostlind on Behalf of Patrick Walsh
Ian Hlavacek

1. Director's Report
The Director's Report was given by Jennifer Ostlind, Assistant Deputy Director, Planning and Development Department.

2. Chair's Report
The Chair's Report was given by Maya Ford. Ford recently completed Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) training on designing for bicycle safety. She encouraged other members to stay informed and connect with their community members to solicit feedback on proposed facilities.

3. Discussion and action regarding Subcommittee scope and expectations

The need for a separate Chair or Vice Chair for subcommittees was raised. Several members said they did not see a need. Vice Chair Martinson nominated Hlavacek, who expressed concerns that he was ineligible due to serving as an ex-officio member.

Staff member Melissa Beeler (MB), presented on scope, responsibilities and expectations of subcommittee members as defined by the ordinance. Vice Chair Martinson asked about record keeping. The general consensus among members was to send out brief meeting notes to those

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in attendance and post publicly within a reasonable amount of time after the meeting (10 days was a suggestion).

MB outlined upcoming deadlines for Precinct 1 Challenge projects. Chair Ford expressed concern about pace of projects and lack of time to submit feedback. Amar Mohite stated that the subcommittee's role is to influence the thought process more than to approve projects. Ford understood that the subcommittee does not have veto power, but she would still like to know about projects before they happen. Katrina Bayer stated that no one wants to hold up projects, but would still like to influence the process if time allows. Jennifer Ostlind stated that nature of Precinct 1 Challenge warrants fast deadlines and pace. Robin Holzer suggested that standard for timeliness of updates should be "useful to everyone in the room."

Chair Ford facilitated a group activity, first asking "Who are we serving?". Members listed the following:

- Ages 8- 80
    - Children K-12
    - University students
    - Seniors with or without disabilities
- Minority/Low-Income
- Commuters
- All abilities
- Neighborhoods
- Those bike for transport: To school, work, errands; faster, longer trip users
- Daily users
- Adaptive bikes
- Visitors
- Special event attendees
- Recreational riders
- All times of day (lighting)
- Different language users

Chair Ford facilitated a SWOT exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Members listed the following:

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• BAC • Bike Plan • Interagency/Department communication • Political focus • Short-term funding • Great Weather, good terrain • Bikes on buses • Bike Share, greenways • Momentum • Young city • Private investment and growth	• Long-term funding • Maintenance • Lack of accountability • Media bias and public bias • HPD enforcement bias • Car failed to yield is not an option in collision analysis report • Education: Bicycle education, transit education, behavior change for drivers • Language matters: Call it a crash, not an accident • Data, especially in under resourced neighborhoods

	• Lack of density • Lack of connectivity • Limited ROW • Intersection density low • Situational awareness

Opportunities
• Collision Analysis Report
• Biking education
• State driver's education
• Legitimate, integrated multimodal system
• Ways to understand and navigate multimodal system
• Elevate social inclusion and language
• Houston as a great place to ride; opp. To grow ridership
• Leverage short-term funding
• Inclusive counting
• More counting infrastructure
• E-bikes and shared scooters
• Changing technology
• Training especially for decision makers
• Funding
  • TIP Call for Projects
  • Harvey relief funding for Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
  • STP
	Threats
	• Term limits
	• Fatalities and injuries
	• Change in leadership
	• Changing technology
	• Adverse media coverage
	• To not be visionary enough (fail to build infrastructure that withstands the test of time)
	• Allowing perfect to be the enemy of good
	• Time
	• Inclusion must be at the center of conversation
	• Business as usual mentality (maintaining status quo)
	• Multimodal standards

4. Discussion and possible recommendations to Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding top 10 most dangerous intersections

MB presented on status of Mayor's Top 10 Dangerous Intersection search and Safer Streets expansion. Ian Hlavacek presented on Houston Public Works (HPW) status.

Oni Blair stated that LINK has created a map showing crash density and is also working to coordinate with Kinder Institute's Near Miss Study and BikeHouston's survey. Robin Holzer suggested that this work should be framed under the Vision Zero policy or Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Staff member Wu Ying responded that a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is being pursued in the medium-term, but may not be conducive to the Mayor's short-term effort. Holzer encouraged buy-in from political leadership. Chair Ford inquired about the 10 intersections deadline. A member of the Planning and Development staff replied that while no hard deadline has been set, the Mayor has made it an urgent priority (i.e. next few months). Vice Chair Martinson named a number of animal-related safer streets tools, which could be leveraged to partner with the Houston Zoo. Holzer proposed LINK to present their findings at the July BAC meeting.

5. Update and possible recommendations to Bicycle Advisory Committee on bike facility implementation

MB presented on the status of Year 1 of the Bike Plan Implementation. Vice Chair Martinson had questions about the bidding process, answered by Amar Mohite. Mike VanDusen suggested overlap with Livable Centers recommendations. All suggested that many projects already have public support and should proceed. Mohite said that although some public engagement has already been conducted on certain projects, "refresher" engagement is sometimes necessary and warned of "bikelash" if solid community support is not established. Chair Ford suggested demonstration projects such as pop-up bike lanes. Katrina Bayer warned of projects without clear origin or destination, commenting on experience with Lamar Cycle Track

MB presented on the status of Acres Home projects. Chair Ford asked about possibility of pop-up lanes at Juneteenth. Beeler mentioned it is being considered.

Wu Ying presented on the status of Near Northside projects. Mohite suggested that METRO, HPW, Precinct 1 must coordinate. Oni Blair requested that high-frequency transit be overlaid on maps.

Velyjha Southern presented on the status of Third Ward projects.

Peter Eccles presented on the status of Gulfton and Midtown projects. Robin Holzer expressed concern about lack of connection to the Hillcroft Transit Center. Yuhayna McCoy replied that METRO is looking into it.

Holzer drew attention to Hawthorne/Holman connection. Ana Ramirez-Huerta requested staff send all projects through TxDOT ROW to her immediately for coordination.

Beeler will email link to interactive map for feedback by members in attendance.

6. Discussion of Houston Bike Share Request for Information Expectations

Martin presented on status of dockless RFI. Comments were due June 1st and the next step will be to review submissions. Proposed to present at the July BAC meeting.

7. Announcements

Perez mentioned an upcoming Northline meeting at Clark Park. Holzer has been presenting to local civic associations about bike safety. Some members requested she share her talking points.

8. Public Comment

Justin McMurtry with the American Bicycle Education Foundation spoke about the CyclingSavvy course, which was available for $65 for a lifetime membership during National Bike Month.

Mary Filly suggested zoning is a weakness, wondered how development influences cycling safety, and stated that Midtown would be starting a parking management district.

Adjournment
Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.

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Bicycle Advisory Committee
Infrastructure Subcommittee

BAC Mission

To advise and make recommendations to the commission and the director on issues related to bicycling in the city including, but not limited to, amendments to the Bike Plan, bicycle safety and education, implementation of the Bike Plan, development of strategies for funding projects related to bicycling, and promoting public participation in bicycling.

BAC Vision

By 2027, the City of Houston will be a Safer, More Accessible, Gold Level Bike-Friendly City

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Subcommittee Scope

- "The committee may form sub-committees to assist it in the discharge of its responsibilities.
- The sub-committees shall make recommendations to the committee and the committee shall make final recommendations to the commission."

Subcommittee Scope

Subcommittee	Infrastructure
Topics covered	Scoring Process Intersection of Bike and Ped issues (Vulnerable Road Users) Maintenance Designing for Safety Innovation Equity + Inclusion
Opportunities to weigh in on	Selection process, Call for Projects, engagement process, design concepts to consider, Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) revisions, holistic design approaches, maintenance, funding and partnerships
Meeting frequency	Every other month (alternating months when Education is not meeting)
Expectations	Advise and make recommendations to BAC
Deadlines	May 31: IDM Chapter 17 comment deadline June 30: First round of engagement August 9: Bike Friendly Communities Application

Top 10 Most Dangerous Intersections

- Expanding Safer Streets Initiative to all of Houston
  - Currently three pilot projects in Complete Communities
  - Goal: To Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety through quick delivery projects
- Currently developing a process to select intersections

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Bike Facility Implementation

- One-year partnership to connect neighborhoods and destinations with high comfort bikeways and to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Funding:
  - COH: FY 18 $1.1 million
  - Harris Co. Precinct 1: $10 million
- Completion by April 2019
  - Timeline

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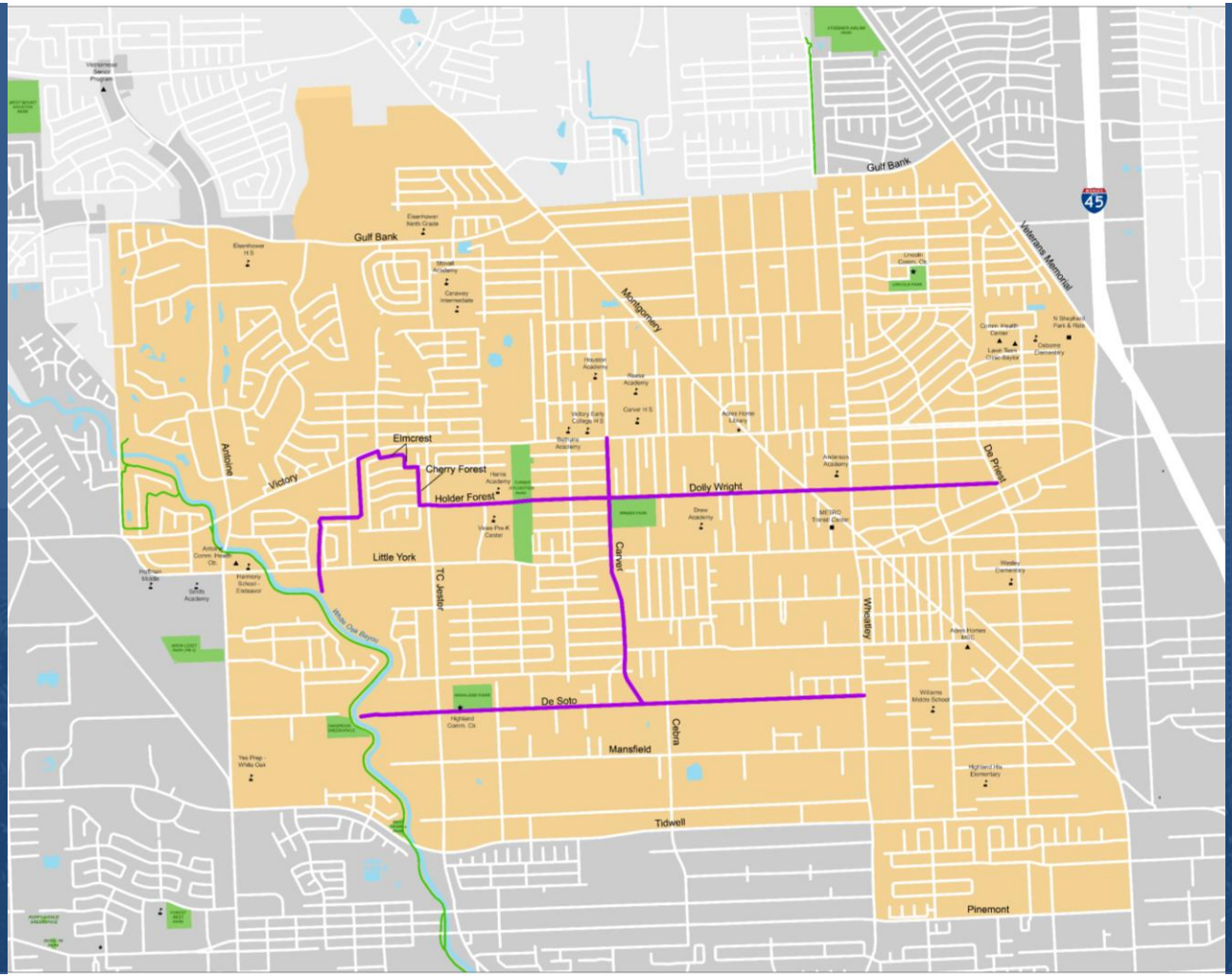
Acres Home



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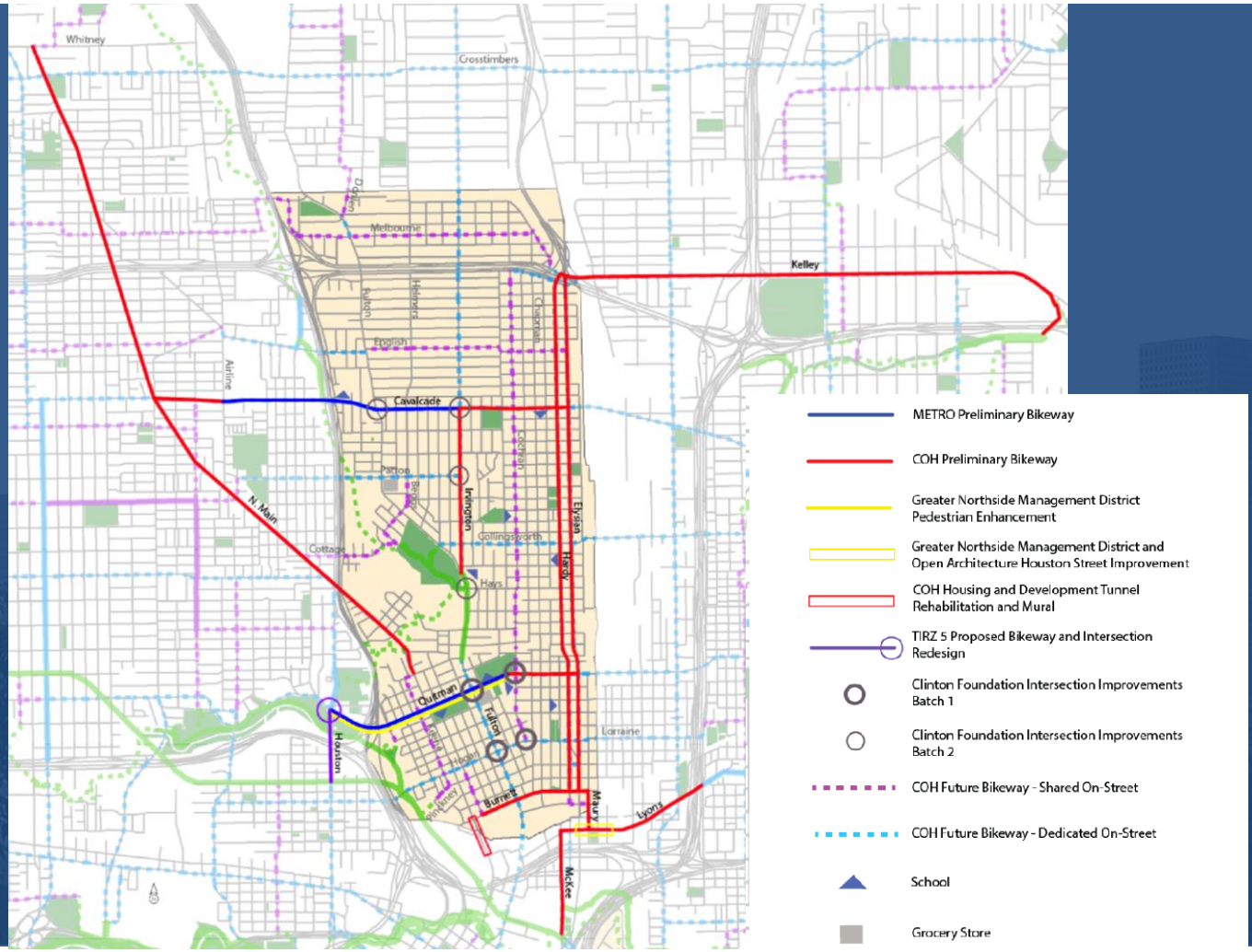
Near Northside



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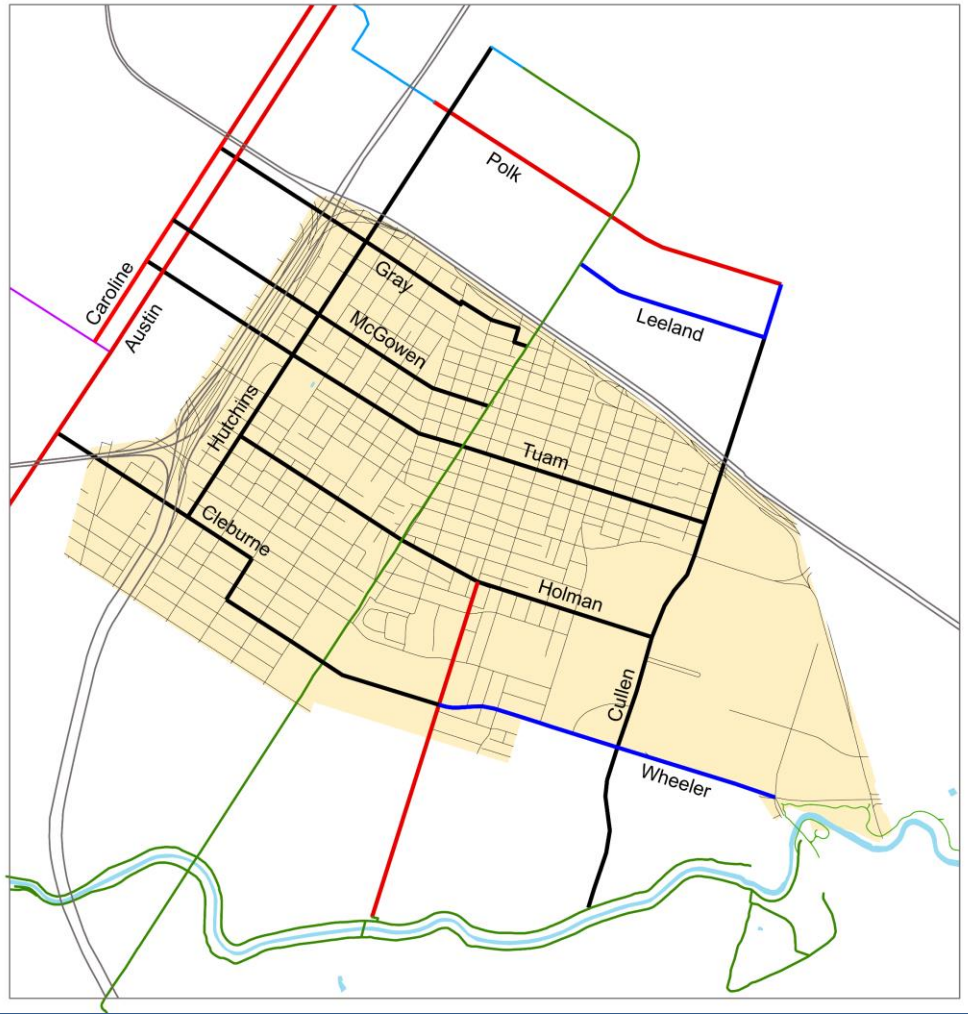
Third Ward



HOUSTON BIKEPLAN

Year 1 Implementation
Third Ward

Proposed Bikeways

- FY18 Programmed Projects (CoH)
- Programmed Projects (METRO)
- Precinct 1 Challenge Possibilities

Existing Bikeways

- Off-street
- Dedicated on-street
- Shared on-street

- Precinct 1
- Greater Third Ward CC

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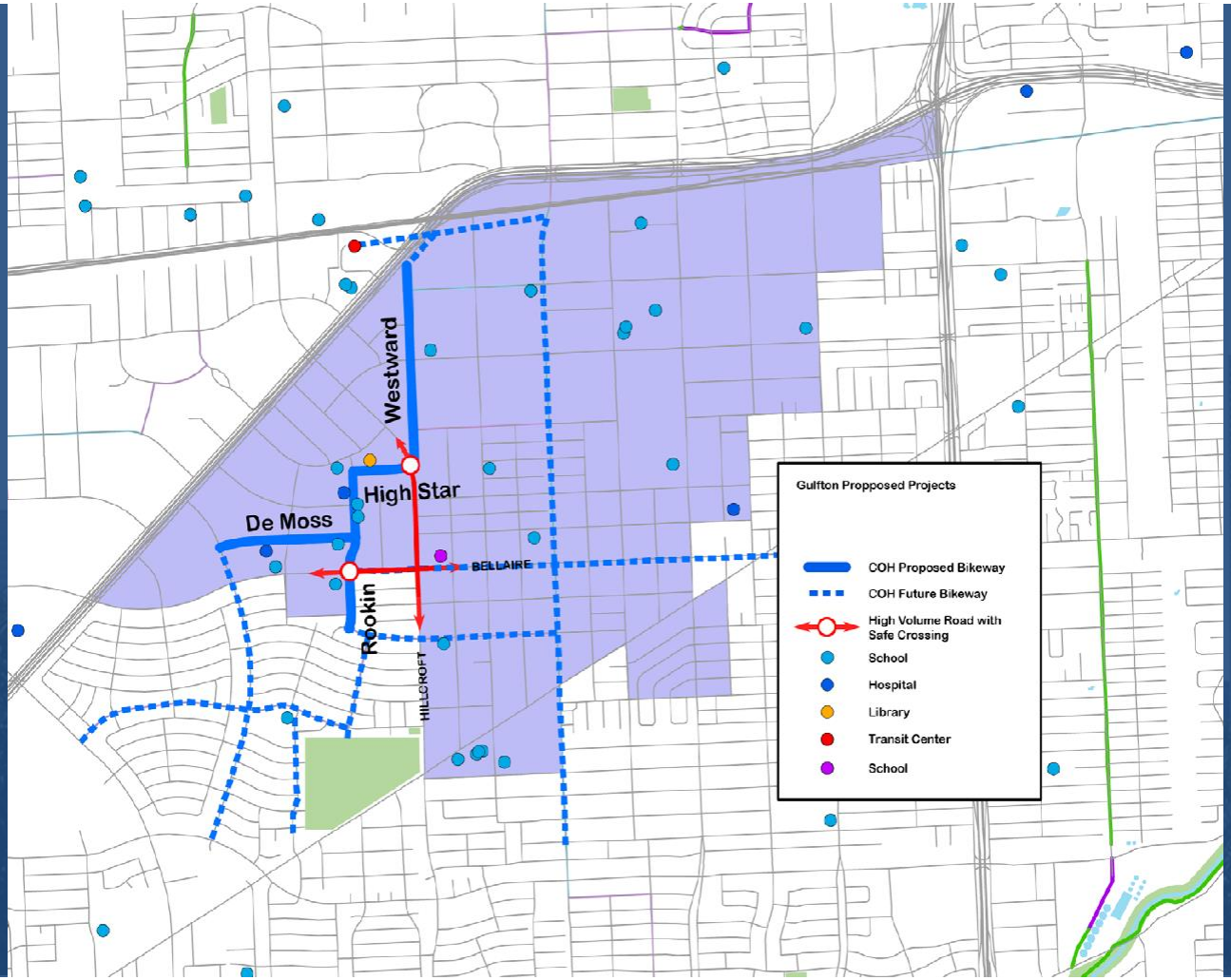
Gulfton



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Midtown



HOUSTON BIKEPLAN

Year 1 Implementation
Midtown

Proposed Bikeways

- FY18 Programmed Projects
- Precinct 1 Challenge Possibilities

Existing Bikeways

- Off-street
- Dedicated on-street
- Shared on-street

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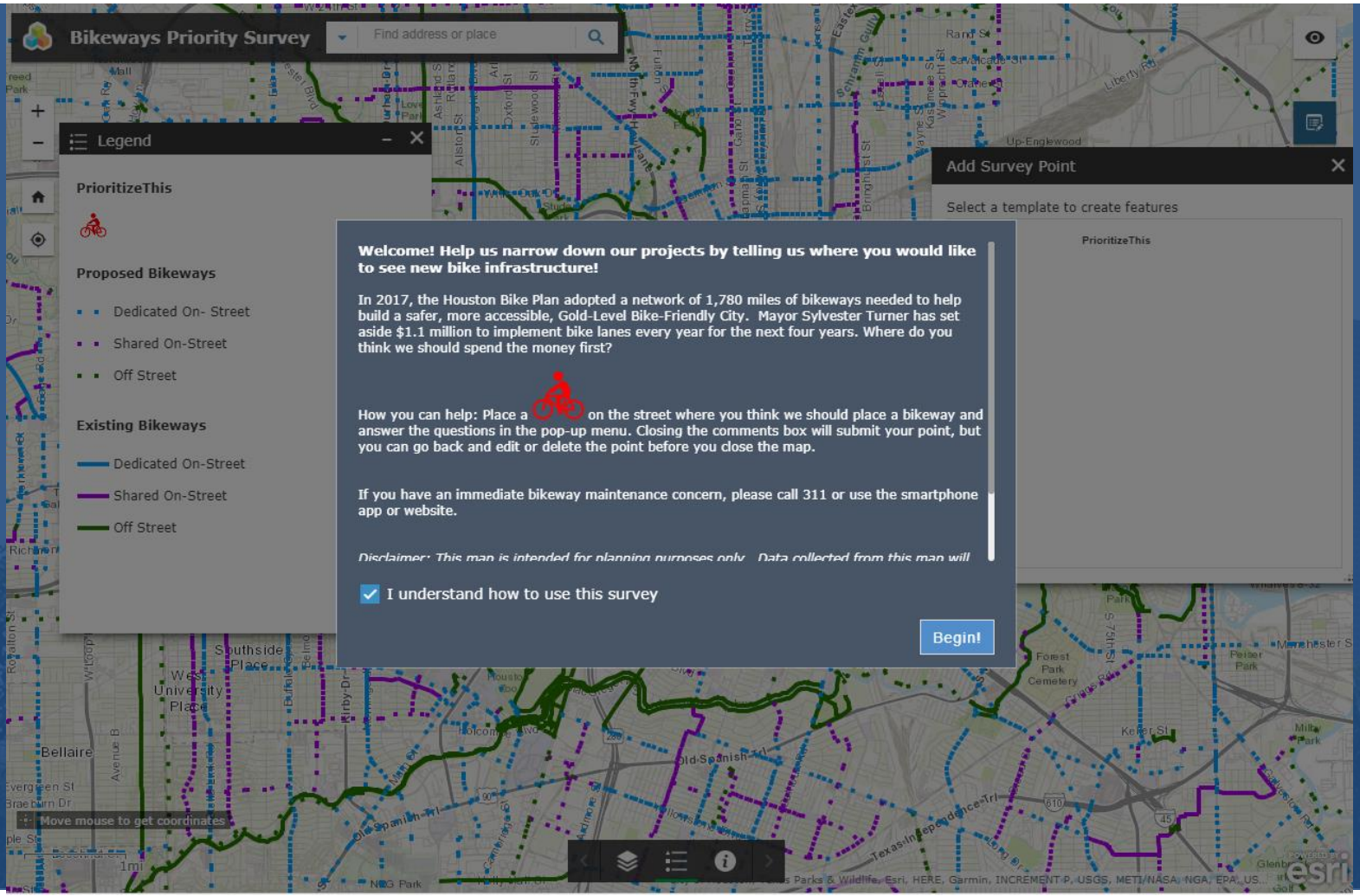
Interactive Map



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